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William C. Nelson to Maria C. Nelson (16 July 1861)

William Cowper Nelson

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Camp Magnolia, near Pensacola, Fla.

Tuesday, ~~Wednesday~~ Eve, July 16th 61.

My Dear Mother:

This calm summer evening, while everything is quiet and there is nothing to disturb me, I have seated myself at my escritoir out in the open air, for the express purpose of inditing a brief epistle to my Dear Mother. It having been at least several days since I last wrote you, nothing of interest has transpired since my last, except that the picket guard down on the Perdido had the pleasure of firing in to a small boat containing about twenty-five or thirty of the enemy.

The boat was several hundred yds distant and it is not known whether any were killed or not. They were probably sent out from the fleet to reconnoitre.

A small party of our troops also
had a little skirmish with the en-
emy a few days since at East Pass,
a place opposite Pensacola, which
separates Santa Rosa Island from
the Main Land, it is reported
that one officer and three men
were killed on the Federal side,
I know not whether the rumor is
true or not. We are still in statu
quo at this point, with no prospect
of a fight. The health of our Regt
still continues to be fine, there is
not a case of serious illness in
either of the A. S. companies,
Hugh Barton is able to walk a-
bout, he intends leaving for Ala,
next week, Mr. Mosley of whom
I spoke in my last has not
yet obtained a furlough I don't
know when he will leave,
Willie Crump arrived this evening
bringing many presents and letters,

I was the recipient of one of the
letters, I was very glad to learn that
you were all well, but pained
to learn that you were despon-
ding again, but don't think for
a moment dear Mother that I
am "burdened by your sorrows," it
is rather a "melancholy pleasure"
to be able to sympathise with
you, I hope and trust however
you will not be troubled on my
account. I am perfectly satisfied,
don't mind at all being depriv-
ed of the luxuries of civilized
life, it is true I had much
rather be in more active service,
but I am contented to remain here,
inasmuch as you prefer it, We don't
fare nearly so bad as you might
suppose anyhow. We probably have
a better time on the whole, than
any other troops in the service,
a great deal better than those in

Union City and Missouri,

I wrote to Sister a few days since,
I found the pants the other day
which you sent me 2 or 3 months
ago, they were in Mr. Belshers
trunk! He had never worn them
and only discovered recently that
they were mine, by the name on
the pocket,

We got our pay yesterday. We
only received \$4. 43; the Captain
by order of the Colonel, reserving
eleven for to expend in clothing.
they paid us in Central Bank
Alabama money, which is 10
per cent. discount here. Ask Pa
if it is good in H.S. If it is,
I will send some to Ann, and
let him send me some small
bills if he can get any, or any
Georgia or Alabama Banks,

Love to all friends, Tell Pa to
send the camp rug by Ben Walther
if he can get it from Memphis
in time, Good-bye
Your loving son
Will. B. Nelson